



STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

September 25, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II
445 12th Street, SW
Suite TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher
Vice President of High Cost and Low
Income Division
Universal Service Administration
2000 L. Street, NW – Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Docket No. 96-45, Certification Letter Pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R.
§§ 54.313 and 54.316, for the year 2012

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

On November 2, 1999, the FCC adopted a mechanism to provide high-cost support to non-rural carriers. *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Ninth Report and Order and 18th Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 99-306), released November 2, 1999 (Non-Rural USF Order). That Order requires states to certify that the non-rural carrier(s) in their jurisdiction will use the federal support in compliance with section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This certification letter is being submitted to satisfy that requirement.

In accordance with the requirements of that Order and 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 the Maine Public Utilities Commission certifies that all the federal high-cost funds provided to the non-rural company, Northern New England Telephone Operations, Inc.-ME, were used during the preceding calendar year and will be used during the coming calendar year for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended in a manner consistent with the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). To the best of our knowledge, all federal high-cost support will be used only to support those services for which the support is intended. In addition, pursuant to the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.316, we certify that rates in the rural areas of our non-rural company are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationally because they are below the nationwide urban rate benchmark safe harbor.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Joel Shifman at joel.shifman@maine.gov or at (207)287-1381.

Sincerely,

Karen Geraghty
Administrative Director

KG/bjs